

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 7-9 and 11 and cancel without prejudice or admission claim 10 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a mass culture of a rusticle consortia, comprising the steps of:

providing a growth substrate;

placing one or more samples obtained from a rusticle on the growth substrate;

placing the growth substrate with the samples thereon into a tank filled with an aqueous solution comprising water containing oxygen and a nutrient substrate containing ferric ammonium citrate and inorganic nutrients; and

controlling an environment of the aqueous solution to facilitate growth of the rusticle on the growth substrate.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1; wherein the growth substrate comprises an anodically charged metal.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2; wherein the growth substrate comprises a metal plate.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3; further comprising the step of embrittling the metal plate.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4; wherein the step of embrittling comprises hammering the metal plate at about 3000 p.s.i. for approximately 60 minutes.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3; wherein the metal plate has a chemical composition comprising at least 0.8% phosphorus, at least 1.2% sulfur, and at least 1.4% manganese.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3; further comprising the step of rolling the metal plate to promote the formation of lateral pearlite deposits within the steel plate to cause a flaking form of corrosion.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1; wherein the growth substrate is formed by the geometric disposition of unlike metals.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8; wherein the unlike metals are Fe and Cu electrically dissimilar.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method according to
~~claim 10; claim 1~~; wherein the step of controlling an environment of the aqueous solution comprises maintaining a pH level of the aqueous solution within the range of 7.4 and 8.4.

12.-14. (canceled)

16. (withdrawn) A therapeutic substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

17. (withdrawn) A therapeutic substance comprising a substance produced by a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

18. (withdrawn) An antimicrobial substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

19. (withdrawn) An antibiotic substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.